

**GLEBE FARM HOUSE,  
STANGROUND,  
PETERBOROUGH ROAD,  
PETERBOROUGH,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**NGR REF: TL 20474 95804**



***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION***  
**(OASIS ID: independ1-270792)**

**DECEMBER 2016**

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants 6-7 December 2016 for the construction of 12 detached dwellings on land adjacent to Glebe Farm House, Stanground, Peterborough Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. A total of 8 evaluation trenches were opened up, and a few sherds of Medieval and Post Medieval pottery were collected from the subsoil. Since few features of archaeological interest were uncovered the evaluation indicated that the proposed development area has a fairly low archaeological potential, with only a limited number of finds and features from the Medieval and Post Medieval periods.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The site was located on land adjacent to Glebe Farm House, Stanground, Peterborough Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 20474 95804) (Figure 1-3). Eight evaluation trenches were opened up within the proposed development area. The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), as well as discussions with Rebecca Casa Hatton, Archaeological Officer at Peterborough City Council. The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A Planning Application (16/00902/FUL) for a new development on land adjacent to Glebe Farm House, Stanground, Peterborough Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire was sent to Peterborough City Council in early 2016. The development comprised 12 detached dwellings with associated drives and car parks. The site is currently occupied by Glebe Farm House, a modern farmhouse which is scheduled to be demolished once the archaeological evaluation has been concluded.
- 2.2 The proposed development site was located some 4km southeast of central Peterborough and enclosed an area of some 0.33ha at an average height of 14.5m AOD. The geology of the site comprised Oxford Clay overlain by Till Boulder Clay formations of the Mid Pleistocene period (British Geological Survey).
- 2.3 The site was located within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Peterborough HER. Therefore, an archaeological evaluation was required prior to any construction within the area. This condition was in line with standards described in *NPPF* (2012). The *NPPF* stresses the importance of recording heritage assets whose significance will be affected by new developments.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site was located within an area of archaeological interest. Archaeological investigations carried out as part of Stanground South development, on land immediately to the south and east of the proposed development site, have revealed evidence for Prehistoric settlement, as well as agricultural and human remains.
- 3.2 Cartographic sources suggest that the site has witnessed minor developments in recent years, namely the construction of Glebe Farm House in the 1970s. Prehistoric remains were likely to be encountered within the proposed development site. If present, these were expected to survive in good conditions of preservation, notwithstanding the construction of Glebe Farm House. There was also a risk for the existence of later archaeological remains.
- 3.3 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) requested an archaeological evaluation of the site to be carried out before any final decisions were being made regarding the final layout.

### 4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- Provide a record of archaeological remains whose preservation *in situ* is threatened by the proposed work. If applicable, remains that can be preserved *in situ* will be recorded and prepared for re-burial. Therefore, steps will be taken to ensure construction and future maintenance do not threaten preserved remains
  - Provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent and degree of preservation of all excavated archaeological remains
  - Define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains
  - Interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional, and national, archaeological context
- 4.2 The evaluation also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24; *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010* (English Heritage 2005).

4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:

- \*characterisation of the site in the broader landscape;
- \*characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
- \*characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time



Figure 1. The location of the site outside Peterborough in England.



Figure 2. The Site Location in Stanground, Peterborough.



Figure 3. Site Outline and Trench Locations.



## **5 METHODOLOGY**

### **5.1 Trial Trenching**

- 5.1.1 It was suggested that eight 10m long machine cut trenches, with a width of 2m, were going to be excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The total length of trenching was therefore 80m, totalling 160m<sup>2</sup>, or ca. 5% of the proposed development area (Figure 3).
- 5.1.2 The location of the trenches targeted areas of proposed ground disturbance and provided representative sample coverage. The location of the trenches were slightly flexible, and took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance.
- 5.1.3 The trenches were excavated to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any features exposed.

### **5.2 Metal Detecting**

- 5.2.1 Thorough metal detector sweeps of exposed features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process. Deeply buried signals were investigated only if agreed as part of the hand excavation programme.

### **5.3 Hand Excavation**

- 5.3.1 All man-made features were investigated. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws and natural strips of clay in the natural) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling were sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.
- 5.3.2 Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features. Thereafter, mechanical removal and visual scanning for artefacts was accepted. The evaluation provided a representative sample of the site's archaeology at no significant cost to the value or integrity of the archaeological remains therein.

## **6 RECORDING**

- 6.1 A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.

- 6.2 Measured plans were produced that show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features, etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections in the scales 1:20 and 1:50 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied into trench plans/trench location plans that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.
- 6.3 A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photos was also included in this report.

## **7 RESULTS**

### **Trench 1**

- 7.1 Trench 1 was E-W orientated and was 10m long, 2m wide and 0.45m deep. Underlying all other deposits in Trench 1 was the natural ground, consisting of yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones (Figure 4).
- 7.2 In the clay there was a concentration of red, fired clay with occasional charcoal (103). The feature was 2.25m long, 1.5m wide and 0.05m thick. No finds were visible within the feature and the concentration of fired clay could not be dated (Figure 5).
- 7.3 Covering (103) was the 0.32m thick subsoil (102) of light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. The uppermost deposit in Trench 1 was the up to 0.13m thick topsoil (101) of dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones.

### **Trench 2**

- 7.4 Trench 2 was NE-SE orientated and was 10m long, 2m wide and 0.49m deep. Underlying all other deposits in Trench 2 was the natural ground, consisting of yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones (Figure 6).
- 7.5 Covering the natural was the 0.30m thick subsoil (202) of light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. The uppermost deposit in Trench 2 was the up to 0.19m thick topsoil (201) of dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones. No archaeological features were identified in Trench 3.

### **Trench 3**

- 7.6 Trench 3 was NE-SW orientated and was 10m long, 2m wide and 0.52m deep. Underlying all other deposits in Trench 3 was the natural ground, consisting of yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones (Figure 7).



- 7.7 Covering the natural was the 0.32m thick subsoil (302) of light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. The subsoil contained a sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware from the 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century and a sherd of Midland Blackware from the late 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century. The uppermost deposit in Trench 3 was the up to 0.20m thick topsoil (301) of dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones. No archaeological features were identified in Trench 3.

#### **Trench 4**

- 7.8 Trench 4 was E-W orientated and was 10m long, 2m wide and 0.42m wide. Underlying all other deposits in Trench 4 was the natural ground, consisting of yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones (Figure 8).
- 7.9 In the central parts of Trench 4 a modern northwest-southeast orientated land drain was identified. The cut of this land drain was 0.21m deep and 0.15m wide [404]. It had a fill of modern, grey and semi compacted pebbles (403).
- 7.10 Covering the land drain was the 0.27m thick subsoil (402) of light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. The uppermost deposit in Trench 4 was the up to 0.15m thick topsoil (401) of dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones. No archaeological features were identified in Trench 4.

#### **Trench 5**

- 7.11 Trench 5 was E-W orientated and was 10m long, 2m wide and 0.48m deep. Underlying all other deposits in Trench 5 was the natural ground, consisting of yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones (Figure 9).
- 7.12 Covering the natural was the 0.31m thick subsoil (502) of light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. The uppermost deposit in Trench 5 was the up to 0.17m thick topsoil (501) of dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones. No archaeological features were identified in Trench 5.

#### **Trench 6**

- 7.13 Trench 6 was E-W orientated and was 10m long, 2m wide and 1m deep. Underlying all other deposits in Trench 6 was the natural ground, consisting of yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones (Figure 10).
- 7.14 Covering the natural was the 0.42m thick subsoil (602) of light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. The uppermost deposit in Trench 6 was the up to 0.58m thick topsoil (601) of dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones. A part of this topsoil had probably been brought into the site as garden soil as Trench 6 was cut in garden grass. No archaeological features were identified in Trench 6.

### **Trench 7**

- 7.15 Trench 7 was NE-SW orientated and was 10m long, 2m wide and 1m deep. Underlying all other deposits in Trench 7 was the natural ground, consisting of yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones (Figure 11).
- 7.16 Cut into the natural was a 1m long, 0.8m wide and 0.57m deep soakaway of brick [704]. The eastern end of this soakaway was running into the eastern section of Trench 7, and it was clear that the feature had been demolished before the evaluation was carried out. It had a loosely packed fill of brick stones of various size and colour (703) and it is likely that the soakaway can be dated the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.17 Covering the natural was the 0.35m thick subsoil (702) of light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. The uppermost deposit in Trench 7 was the up to 0.65m thick topsoil (701) of dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones. No archaeological features were identified in Trench 7.

### **Trench 8**

- 7.18 Trench 8 was N-S orientated and was 10m long, 2m wide and 0.42m deep. Underlying all other deposits in Trench 8 was the natural ground, consisting of yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones (Figure 12).
- 7.19 Covering the natural was the 0.22m thick subsoil (802) of light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots. The subsoil also contained a sherd of Brill/Boarstall Ware from about AD1200-1600. The uppermost deposit in Trench 8 was the up to 0.20m thick topsoil (801) of dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones. No archaeological features were identified in Trench 8.



*Figure 4. Trench 1. Overview. West facing photo.*



*Figure 5. Feature (103) in the western end of Trench 1 consisted of a concentration of fired clay and charcoal. The feature could not be dated. North facing photo.*





*Figure 6. Trench 2. Overview. Southwest facing photo.*



*Figure 7. Trench 3. Overview. Southwest facing photo.*





*Figure 8. Trench 4. Overview. A modern land drain was running across the central parts of the trench. East facing photo.*



*Figure 9. Trench 5. Overview. West facing photo.*





*Figure 10. Trench 6. Overview. West facing photo.*



*Figure 11. Trench 7. Overview. South east facing photo.*





*Figure 12. Trench 8. Overview. South facing photo.*

## **8 THE POTTERY (By Paul Blinkhorn)**

- 8.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 3 sherds with a total weight of 32g. The following types were noted:
- 8.2 **Brill/Boarstall Ware**, *ca.* AD1200-1600 (Mellor 1994). 1 sherd, 23g.  
**Glazed Red Earthenware**, 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century. (Brears 1969). 1 sherd, 1g.  
**Midland Blackware**, late 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid*). 1 sherd, 8g.
- 8.3 The sherd of Brill/Boarstall Ware occurred in context (802), and is a fragment of a slip-decorated and glazed jug typical of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century output of the tradition. Brill/Boarstall products have been noted at a number of sites in and around Peterborough in the past (Spoerry 2016, 61-2).
- 8.4 The two post-medieval sherds occurred in context (302). They are common finds in the region, and may date the context to the late 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

- 9.1 The evaluation carried out on land adjacent to Glebe Farm House, Stanground, Peterborough Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire indicated that the proposed development site has a fairly low archaeological potential.



- 9.2 A few sherds of Medieval and Post Medieval pottery were collected from the subsoil in the western part of the site, but these could not be associated with any obvious archaeological features.
- 9.3 An undated concentration of fired clay in Trench 1 in the southwest corner of the site may be fairly recent. It is therefore in doubt whether this feature can be associated with the previously investigated Prehistoric settlement south of the proposed development.
- 9.4 Since the archaeological evaluation described in this report was only covering some 5% of the total development area there is still a potential risk for undiscovered archaeological features being present within the site.

## 10 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

### Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	Finds

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants.  
The archive will be transferred to:

The Archaeological Collections at Peterborough Museum.

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# APPENDICES

## CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		<b>Trench 1 (10m x 2m)</b>		
(101)	0.13	Dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones	(102)	-
(102)	0.32	Light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	(103)	(101)
(103)	0.05	Red, fired clay with occasional charcoal	Natural	(102)
Natural	-	Yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones	-	(103)
		<b>Trench 2 (10m x 2m)</b>		
(201)	0.19	Dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones	(202)	-
(202)	0.30	Light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	Natural	(201)
Natural	-	Yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones	-	(202)
		<b>Trench 3 (10m x 2m)</b>		
(301)	0.20	Dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones	(302)	-
(302)	0.32	Light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	Natural	(301)
Natural	-	Yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones	-	(302)
		<b>Trench 4 (10m x 2m)</b>		
(401)	0.15	Dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones	(402)	-
(402)	0.27	Light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	(403)	(401)
(403)	0.21	Fill of modern, grey and semi compacted pebbles in land drain	[404]	(402)
[404]	0.21	Cut of modern land drain	Natural	(403)
Natural	-	Yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones	-	[404]
		<b>Trench 5 (10m x 2m)</b>		
(501)	0.17	Dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones	(502)	-
(502)	0.31	Light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	Natural	(501)

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Natural	-	Yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones	-	(502)
		<b>Trench 6 (10m x 2m)</b>		
(601)	0.42	Dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones	(602)	-
(602)	0.58	Light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	Natural	(601)
Natural	-	Yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones	-	(602)
		<b>Trench 7 (10m x 2m)</b>		
(701)	0.35	Dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones	(702)	-
(702)	0.65	Light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	(703)	(701)
(703)	0.57	Fill of brick stones of various sizes and colours in soakaway	[704]	(702)
[704]	0.57	Cut of soakaway	Natural	(703)
Natural	-	Yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones	-	[704]
		<b>Trench 8 (10m x 2m)</b>		
(801)	0.20	Dark brown, plastic silty clay with frequent roots and occasional small stones	(802)	-
(802)	0.22	Light brown, plastic silty clay with occasional small stones and roots	Natural	(801)
Natural	-	Yellow-grey, plastic silty clay with occasional roots and stones	-	(802)

## FINDS LIST

Find nr	Context	Material	Object	Description	Period
1	(802)	Fired Clay	1 sherd of pottery	Brill/Boarstall Ware	Ca. AD1200-1600
2	(302)	Fired Clay	1 sherd of pottery	Glazed Red Earthenware	16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Century
3	(302)	Fired Clay	1 sherd of pottery	Midland Blackware	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> Century



